The Sun.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1881.

Amusements To-Day.

Abbey's Park Theatre—Little Nell and Marchioness.
Bijou Opera House—Won at Last.
Booth's Theatre—Camille.
Bunnell's Museum—Broadway and 9th st.
Daly's Theatre—Cinderella at School.
Grand Opera House—The Kerry Gow.
Haverly's 14th St. Theatre—Fun on the Bristol.
Haverly's 5th Av. Theatre—Olivette.
Haverly's Niblo's Garden—The Shaughraun.
Madison Square Theatre—Hazel Kirke.
Masonic Temple—Mesmerism.
Middleton's Dime Museum—228 Bowery.
San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 29th st.
Standard Theatre—Billee Taylor.
Theatre Comique—Mulligan's Silver Wedding.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Rentz-Santley Novelty Co. Mat.
Union Square Theatre—Felicia.
Wallack's Theatre—The World.
Windsor Theatre—One Hundred Wives.

Advertisements for THE WEEKLY SUN, *issued to-morrow morning, must be handed in this evening before six o'clock.*

The Misfortune of the Republicans.

The statement is sometimes made that during the past six or eight years the Senate has fallen below what it was in the middle of the MONROE era, when RUFUS KING, WILLIAM PINKNEY, and Farmer GILES of Virginia led in its debates; and also in the later JACKSON epoch, when WEBSTER, CALHOUN, and CLAY made the chamber illustrious with their talents.

It has also been alleged that the present Senate is a long way behind its predecessor in BUCHANAN'S time, when SEWARD, HUNTER, and FESSENDEN were distinguished in its councils; and that it does not even come up to the level of the Senate in the reconstruction period, when SUMNER, BEN WADE, and REVERDY JOHNSON stood among its prominent members.

On these questions there may be room for debate. But the country is almost unanimous in the sentiment that neither of the great parties in the Senate was ever in so abject and pitiable a condition as the Republicans in the present Senate now are. A large majority of the Republican Senators are beginning to admit that they made a bad bargain with MAHONE. They see that by postponing the urgent business for which the President called them to Washington, in order that they may carry out this bargain and pay over to MAHONE his price, they are striking the Administration with paralysis and bringing into contempt the Executive whom their own party, with such a tremendous effort, barely elected.

The apology which they give for not breaking loose from their false position is even more unworthy than the thraldom which they would excuse. They say it was Mr. CONKLING'S determined will in the caucus that drove them into the bog where they are now floundering; and they are afraid to crawl out, lest the Boss should lay the whip across their backs again.

This is the excuse that drops from the lips of FRYE, who takes BLAINE'S seat; from pugnacious EUGENE HALE, and the ostentatious HOAR; from virtuous JOE HAWLEY, who has led troops to the charge, and Gen. SEWELL, who throttled SECOR ROBESON, and bold, bluff CONGER of Michigan, and JOHN SHERMAN, the model civil service reformer, and BEN HARRISON, and other Senators who stood erect and defeated CONKLING'S unyielding **306** at Chicago!

The Edison Light.

For several evenings past the public have had an opportunity of seeing for themselves just what sort of a light Mr. EDISON has succeeded in producing. At the headquarters of the EDISON Company on the Fifth avenue the parlor floor of a large house is brilliantly illuminated with electric lamps of his devising. It cannot be denied by the most prejudiced owner of gas stocks that the light is beautiful and brilliant.

The drawing room is lighted by a large chandelier carrying a dozen or more lamps, and is as bright as day. A more brilliant and a steadier light could not be desired. There is none of the flicker so frequently observed in some of the electric lights, and which also characterizes gaslight; but the incandescent carbon horseshoes glow with a quiet and steady intensity. The electric current is turned on and off like gas, and the instant the electricity is let in upon the carbon it becomes brilliant. No more convenient light, therefore, could be had. No match is required to ignite it. It is clean, odorless, and almost without heat. The hand may be pressed against the glass bulbs inside which the light glows without discomfort.

But this electric light has its disadvantages also. It pains the eye to look at it, and therefore it ought to be placed high over the heads of people. It is so white and pure that complexions are exposed by it as they are at midday on a sandy sea beach. The artifices which women use to enhance their beauty, or to conceal the ravages of age or of care, avail little in the presence of the electric light. It searches out every personal defect like a bright, unclouded summer sun. But probably, by means of proper shades, it could be softened so as to make it more grateful.

Balancing its advantages and disadvantages, however, the EDISON light unquestionably has the preponderance in its favor as we now see it exhibited. If the company which owns its patent can really supply shops and dwellings with lamps like those which glow in its Fifth avenue headquarters at as cheap a rate as that charged for gas, there is no doubt that it will be in wide demand. If the light can be relied on for continuous use, if it can be supplied just as people want it, if it can be maintained without the necessity for complicated repairs, and if it is cheap, Mr. EDISON has solved the question of adapting the electric light to domestic use, and has made a great fortune for himself and his backers.

We are, however, still left in doubt as to what the cost of the light will be. We shall not know until we see the experiment made, whether it can be successfully supplied over large distances at a low cost which will be remunerative to its manufacturers. The brilliant lighting of a single house for purposes of exhibition cannot be accepted as satisfactory evidence of his triumph. All the conditions there are in his favor, and the field is very limited. Only when we find him lighting a large district of the city for months together, can we call his success complete.

We hope he will yet do this, for such a light as that which floods the Fifth avenue house is greatly needed. It would facilitate many industries, and it would tend to the preservation of the health of the workers now injuriously affected by gaslight, provided it was so arranged as not to hurt their eyesight. It would give a new impetus to night work, and make its prosecution as easy as that by day, so far as illumination is concerned. The advance from the old rush lights to candles, to oil lamps, and finally to gas, enormously increased the intellectual productivity of the world, gave literature a vast aid, and stimulated the growth of the arts and sciences. And if now we can avail ourselves of a still more brilliant illumination at night, which produces no odors and has no injurious emanations, the day will practically have no end, and the nervous energy of the race will be called on to endure a new strain.

Mr. EDISON claims to have accomplished this improvement, but the professors of physics, with few exceptions, refuse to believe him. They deny his ability to furnish the electric light at a cost which will bring it into general use, and in a manner which will make it as convenient and as trustworthy as gaslight. Yet we must remember that before this the doctors of science have been all wrong in their predictions, and have been covered with mortification at seeing practical success achieved where they had declared that the laws of nature necessitated failure. But, other things being equal, the opinion of the expert deserves our confidence until it is upset by actual facts accomplished. We will wait and see whether Mr. EDISON is right, and men like Prof. MAYER and Prof. ROOD are wrong, or whether he is the victim of sanguine expectations doomed to be unrealized. At any rate, his light is worth seeing.

Lord Beaconsfield Dead.

By the death of a man who, weighted down with all the disabilities of Hebrew birth and an obscure station, rose to be Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, contemporary England loses its most remarkable and interesting figure. It is also plain that with the exit of Lord BEACONSFIELD from the stage a political force has disappeared for which no substitute can now be found in the ranks of his own party.

When we call to mind that the last conspicuous act of the ex-Premier was the publication of "Endymion," and that he was a novelist long before he was a politician, we can see how large a share the imagination must have had in fashioning his character and moulding his achievement. The admixture of imaginative power and practical acumen characteristic of the Hebrew race was strikingly exemplified in BENJAMIN DISRAELI, who showed almost equal aptitudes for literature and for business, and who passed repeatedly from the composition of high-flown romance to the prosaic functions of a Chancellor of the Exchequer. But, as might have been expected, we can trace even in his writings a gradual cooling and tempering of his fancy as his knowledge of the world became more definite and copious, as the faculty of observation came into wider play, and as his aims were adjusted to the lessons of a ripe experience.

Thus in his first novel, "Vivian Grey," and in its immediate successors, "The Young Duke," "Contarini Fleming," "Henrietta Temple," and "The Wondrous Tale of Alroy," we recognize the unschooled energy, the incoherent dreams, the giddy self-assertion, of one who has not learned to measure the frictions and possibilities of life. On the other hand, his hopes and his ideas have begun to take consistent and intelligible form, to shape themselves into a social and political philosophy, in such novels as "Coningsby," "Sybil," and "Tancred," which were written after some years of Parliamentary effort had given discipline and direction to his powers. No one can fail to note how skilfully the author develops in those books the programme of the "Young England" party, which, under his guidance, was to have its hour of victory, amid bursts of rhapsody proclaiming the regnant capacity of the Hebrew intellect, and amid grotesque exaggerations of the luxury and magnificence of the English aristocracy. And finally, in "Lothair" and "Endymion," while we still detect the propensity of an Oriental mind to theatric posturing and gorgeous coloring, we cannot but acknowledge that the picture, viewed as a transcript of society and of the arts by which its forces are controlled, attests the hand of one whose knowledge bears the stamp of conquest and authority, whose commerce with mankind has been prolonged, multiform, and masterful.

None of those, indeed, who scanned the first edition of "Vivian Grey" could have foreseen that the author would eclipse the most extravagant achievements of its hero, that the wildest flights of that romance would be translated into fact and reproduced in history. In other countries and other times such triumphs of ambition over obstacles seemingly insuperable had, indeed, been witnessed; but to find them we have to turn to the Roman empire, to Mohammedan despotisms, to the French and Spanish monarchies of the seventeenth and the half-civilized Russia of the eighteenth century. When we keep in view the prejudice against men of Israelite lineage which existed in England, and how those prejudices are intrenched and emphasized in the classes which compose the Conservative party, we must concede that the son of ISAAC DISRAELI surmounted far greater obstacles than such successful adventurers as SEJANUS, as OLIVAREZ, as MAZARIN, or BIRON, with whose fortunes his own career may in one aspect be compared. For instead of flattering the weakness and winning the affection of one all-powerful prince, by arts which could be practised by a freedman in Rome, by an Italian sycophant in France, and a French groom in Russia, his was the far more difficult task of allaying the antipathies of a whole race and captivating the good will of a nation.

If, in moving toward the distant goal of which for half a century he seemed never to lose sight, BENJAMIN DISRAELI, like MAZARIN, was less squeamish about means than intent upon his ends; if, like him, he too often provoked detraction, and did much to merit the epithet of charlatan, it is equally certain that, like the successor of RICHELIEU, he rendered substantial service to the country from which he sought advancement. It is noteworthy that both these statesmen, during the greater part of their careers, had to struggle against distrust and jealousy on the part of their friends and face a perfect storm of contumely on the part of their enemies; that they were perpetually denounced as adventurers and taunted with their origin; yet that both enjoyed before they died one season of fervid popularity and unchallenged power. And it will be said of BEACONSFIELD, as of MAZARIN, that whatever doubt or discredit may attach to his internal policy, he unquestionably lifted his country to a higher place of dignity and influence in Europe.

To appreciate the scope and weight of Lord BEACONSFIELD'S personality, we need only to bear in mind that he entered political life nearly half a century ago, in the first Parliament of Queen VICTORIA, and that during the greater part of that long period he has been prominently before the public eye. During that time he has played no less than four important and very different parts, with striking though varying ability. As a parliamentary free lance during the last Ministry of Sir ROBERT PEEL he displayed an energy and an audacity, a command of aggressive and dilatory tactics, and a mastery of irony and invective which had never been equalled in parliamentary warfare; and he contributed more than any one man or any faction to avenge the repeal of the corn laws by the overthrow of the Peelite Cabinet.

The abilities of which he gave such splendid proof in this contest forced the Tory peers and country gentlemen—in spite of an antipathy which it required almost a generation to overcome—to accept a Hebrew adventurer as the leader of the Conservative opposition in the House of Commons. It was by his conduct in this position that he gradually won the confidence of his own party and extorted the admiration of candid men in the ranks even of his opponents. While his dexterity and tact in organization and his fertility in expedients were continually exercised in compacting, animating, and guiding a minority, and more than once hurling from office antagonists whose strength in the House of Commons ought to have been greater than his own, he yet never exposed himself to the reproach of factious opposition, to the charge of neglecting in great crises the safety or the honor of his country for the sake of partisan advantage.

When, subsequently, on Lord DERBY'S retirement, there was no one to dispute his claim to the leadership of the Conservative party, and it fell to him to carry on her Majesty's Government, supported by a meagre or merely nominal majority, he performed that delicate and well-nigh impracticable task with astonishing adroitness and indisputable success. Although under such circumstances he soon went out of office, it was observed that his party, instead of breaking up, grew more and more coherent, and at each general election seemed to gain strength in the country. The fact is that from the downfall of Sir ROBERT PEEL up to seven years ago, the Conservatives never had a real working majority in the House of Commons. Nor is there any doubt that during this long interval they were held together, and taught how to pluck victory from reiterated defeat, by BENJAMIN DISRAELI. Their triumph in the general election of 1874, after which they entered on an extended term of firmly established power, was his consummate political achievement.

So much has been admitted by men like the late Mr. BAGEHOT, who have no sort of sympathy with the aims and principles of the Conservative party. They are accustomed to add, however, that with the hour which witnessed the crowning triumph of the politician began the failure of the statesman—that his inability to use a splendid opportunity was no less palpably demonstrated than had been the skill which bore him to the goal of his endeavor. Seldom, they say, has any English Minister been able to count upon a stronger, more compliant, and better disciplined majority in the House of Commons, or a more favorable bent of public opinion—and what was the outcome of it all? How did it happen that, with all the resources and appliances which he wielded for six years, Lord BEACONSFIELD failed to leave his mark, broad and deep, on the British Constitution, and to challenge for himself a high place upon the roll of lawgivers? What did he do, they demand, in his hour of well-nigh absolute control, comparable with the first Reform bill, with the repeal of the Corn laws, with the abolition of slavery, with the removal of Catholic disabilities, or with the disestablishment of the Irish Church.

Now it seems to us that those who try Lord BEACONSFIELD'S last term of office by these standards misconceive the position and the powers of a Conservative Prime Minister. So far as the home policy of his Government is concerned, he represents, of course, the static and not the dynamic elements of the commonwealth. It is his business to defend and not pull down, to withstand and not welcome innovations; it is, in short, his duty to put on the brakes and let off the steam. Only on such rare occasions as the crisis provoked by the Corn law agitation, and that which preceded the second Reform bill—when the political situation is intensely strained and the cry for change is irresistible—is a Conservative leader justified in waiving or postponing his convictions with the hope that, seizing with his own hand the besom of reform, he may at least be permitted to wield it with circumspection. Nor can we doubt, when we remember what Mr. DISRAELI did in the teeth of his own party in 1868, that had the Land League agitation been developed three years earlier, he would have had the wisdom and the boldness to impose grave sacrifices on his landowning adherents, and to prescribe a trenchant remedy for the miseries of Ireland. But no such state of things existed during his last term of office; there was a species of lull in the home politics of the United Kingdom, and it was not for the head of the Conservative party to stir up smouldering fires.

To Lord BEACONSFIELD, when he took office in 1874—as to all Conservative Ministers in ordinary circumstances—but a single path lay open, if he meant to play his cards aright and make himself a great name among men. It is for his foreign policy alone that the younger PITT will be remembered; it was through his foreign policy that CANNING aroused a fervor of enthusiasm which gave his weakened party a further lease of life; it was by his foreign policy that PALMERSTON, who by the side of modern Liberals would appear Conservative, knew how to reach the hearts of Englishmen and fire their blood with the proud programme, "*Civis Anglicanus sum.*" It was in this direction, and this only, that Lord BEACONSFIELD could look for honor in the supreme epoch of his life. That he would have achieved within this field far more than was actually attained had he really possessed, at the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish war, the complete mastery of his party and the hold upon public opinion with which Liberals now credit him, no one can doubt who remembers the tremendous outcry about Turkish outrages, and the secession of Lord DERBY and Lord CARNARVON from a Cabinet which they supposed was destined to succumb. What he wished to do, and what he would have done had he then felt that the people of England were behind him, was to stretch forth his hand when Russia's armies had reached the Danube and forbid them to cross that river. It needed, in all likelihood, but the presence of a British squadron in Turkish waters, and the landing of a British army corps on Turkish soil, to recall the lesson of the Crimea, and to wipe out the indignity inflicted on Great Britain during the last GLADSTONE Administration, when GORTCHAKOFF flung off the shackles which the treaty of Paris had imposed. It would certainly have been far easier to stop the Czar's march then than to stay his hand beneath the very walls of CONSTANTINE, to snatch the palm that lay beneath his feet, and to wrench from his grasp the prize of Russia's age-long aspiration.

What, in spite of gibes and clamorings at home, and defection even within the ranks of his own party, Lord BEACONSFIELD strove to win for England will be better measured by and by, when men contrast the influence he gave her with the state of things before and after. Then, perhaps, we shall understand the suspicious plaudits with which Russians hail the foreign and the Indian policy of the GLADSTONE Cabinet, and the fierce animosity they show toward the late Conservative Premier. It was not without good reason that France hated WILLIAM PITT, or that GEORGE CANNING was detested by every autocrat in Europe. The policy to which they clung, and which was once more asserted at the Congress of Berlin, is indissolubly associated with their country's dignity and grandeur. And twenty years, ten years hence, when we look back and compare England's rank among the nations with the place she held when her Prime Minister tore to shreds the treaty of San Stefano and humbled Russia in her proudest hour, we may appreciate much that now is slighted, and acknowledge that the Earl of BEACONSFIELD did not wholly fail to keep the promise of BENJAMIN DISRAELI.

The Love Letters of the Union League.

Love letters are almost always interesting. It is seldom that the authors desire to have them published. Generally they are very secretive about such matters. But the writer of the first letter of the Union League Club series of love letters, which will be found elsewhere in to-day's SUN, differs from most authors of his class, and sends his first letter to us to be put in print.

Col. GEORGE BLISS, the author of this epistle, is a handsome blond gentleman, who must now be bordering on forty years of age, with a face beaming with smiles—when he feels like smiling, which is sometimes—with a plethoric purse, and large but well-grounded ambitious hopes. If he could make himself United States Senator as easily as he once made another man, he would occupy ROSCOE CONKLING'S seat to-day.

The letter, strictly speaking, should have been written to a young lady; but there being no female members of the Union League Club, it is addressed to Mr. JACKSON S. SCHULTZ, whom we assume to be the most effeminate gentleman belonging to that patriotic association of the élite of the Republican party.

Had the letter been addressed to a woman it would undoubtedly have been more gushing. Still it is affectionate; and hardly anything could be more touching than the words in which the first paragraph concludes: "As one who has had your confidence I ask this." Alack the day when GEORGE BLISS had the confidence of JACKSON S. SCHULTZ! All was serene and lovely then.

But we are pained to observe that the epistle which began so affectionately, and like a real love letter, directly subsides into a disquisition on the unpoetical subject of cleaning the streets. If the letter had been addressed to a girl, how disappointed she would have been! But Mr. SCHULTZ, being a person the aspirations of whose soul are said to be limited to sole leather, may think it all the more interesting from the practical turn it takes.

The problem proposed by Col. BLISS is, How to clean the streets? And the answer is in one word, GORRINGE.

In this view we heartily concur. GORRINGE, by all means, and at once. Let the Senate and Assembly agree on some bill that gives us GORRINGE, with a million dollars in hand, and then we may calculate upon clean streets.

Humanity to Humankind.

If sentimentality gets the better of common sense, Mr. BERGH'S well-meaning Society may obtain at Albany the legislation it is now after. It seeks, as we infer, the enactment of a sweeping, undiscriminating law against the medical and scientific experiments that are usually classed under the head of vivisection. At all events, the Medical Society of the State of New York have found it necessary to address to the officers and members of Mr. BERGH'S Society an appeal for non-interference in the prosecution of medical research. It is astonishing that in the year 1881 such an appeal should be necessary.

The protest of the physicians is not addressed to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, but to the members of that Society as individuals. It may be that the Society, as a body, has allowed itself through indifference or lack of proper information to be committed to the fanatic efforts of one man or of a few men.

Humanity is a good watchword, but humanity to humankind must not be forgotten in the endeavor to ameliorate the condition of brutes. Vivisection has an ugly sound. It means the cutting of living tissues, and it is always an ugly and cruel thing to do. Nevertheless, the surgeon is often compelled to practise vivisection of the limb for the sake of the life, and of the mouse for the sake of the man.

The stupidity or the impudence that seeks to throw upon the medical profession the odium of wanton cruelty to animals, and to bring the investigations of science under the surveillance of BERGH'S agents, is almost inconceivable.

About to Make a Speech.

It is stated by Washington letter writers that Senator CONKLING is about to make a speech which will shake the Republican party to its foundations.

Now there is one trouble about Senator CONKLING. He is often just about to make a speech which he never makes.

He was about to make a speech exposing the conspiracy which placed HAYES in the White House. But he never made it. He lost his grand opportunity to serve his country in a memorable way.

About—about—about! Yes, Mr. CONKLING is about to do what he will never do.

He is also about to lose his prestige!

Adjt.-Gen. TOWNSEND announces that the State military authorities intend to continue rifle practice, but to conduct it at camps held upon sites owned by the State. As there are no such camp grounds now owned by the State, even if an appropriation for purchasing them were made at once, it would take at least a year before the butts could be erected upon them and the grounds made ready for use. But no such appropriation is contained in the Supply bill, and it is extremely doubtful whether the Legislature would allow such an item to remain there if it were. In the mean time what becomes of rifle practice?

Gen. TOWNSEND, in a recent letter, says that Gov. CORNELL favors rifle practice if connected with military manœuvres. Although the Governor does not shine as a tactician, yet it can hardly be supposed that he means that he wishes the troops to be instructed in shooting while going through battalion drills. The spectacle of a regiment engaged in practice firing while changing front or being closed in mass would be startling. The troops would probably require a service uniform of steel plates during the performance, and the markers and guides should be double plated. But, presuming that Gen. TOWNSEND meant to say that Gov. CORNELL wishes rifle practice to be carried on in the intervals of camp duty, he wishes what it would be very unwise to let him have. An encampment is designed to instruct the troops in those matters which they cannot learn in their armories—such as battalion drill, skirmishing, guard mounting, and field duty of various descriptions. To do this properly would absorb all the time of officers and men, and would prevent rifle practice from being conducted successfully in a five days' annual encampment. The Albany plan of carrying out rifle practice means, practically, not carrying it out at all.

Another effort to attract German emigration is being made by some Mexicans, who offer land in the vicinity of Acapulco at forty cents an acre, with ten years' time to pay for it. This is one of the numerous attempts to draw desirable European settlers to the Spanish-American countries, and although it is reported that a small colony of German families have started from San Francisco to the place designated, it is not probable that it will succeed much better than most of the similar attempts that have been made heretofore.

German colonies do not thrive on lowlands as near to the equator as this will be. In the higher and salubrious altitudes of the interior of Mexico and of Central America, and as far south of the equator as the lower latitudes of the Argentine Republic and Chili, it would be different. German colonists in Brazil have all fared wretchedly, and in the low lying, hot, unhealthy region of Acapulco they will not do better. If the German immigrants who are invited to go down there would do wisely, they will give the whole scheme a wide berth. They cannot stand the climate, they will not like the population, and they are not safe in relying upon the political stability of the country. German merchants have done well in the city of Mexico, but their business is different from the pursuit of agriculture on the hot coast. Much better is it for Germans to look for homesteads on Government land in Washington Territory; and it would cost no more.

The news of the death of King JOHN of Abyssinia will cause no profound grief in Egypt, to which country the warlike and turbulent monarch has been a menace and terror ever since he ascended the throne. Three times he defeated Egyptian armies, equipped with all the advantages of modern arms and modern methods. He quietly nipped in the bud the military fame to which Egypt aspired, in virtue of her enormous military expenditures for refitting and reorganizing her armies. Like a true warrior, King JOHN fell in battle; indeed, when not at war with Egypt he usually had unruly vassals or hostile neighbors enough to keep him in practice.

FRED GRANT has left the army, in which he was shoved over the heads of older men with records of honorable service, to go into the railroad business. At one time he was spoken of by some persons as "Prince FRED." But the hankerers after imperialism reckoned without the American people.

Why are State Legislatures so apt to consider the last day of the session a time for cutting schoolboy capers that would render grown men ridiculous anywhere, and in legislative chambers are conspicuously out of place? The Connecticut Assembly has had its mock session every year, during which, according to the Hartford *Times*, "the boisterous conduct often descended to license." At the session just closed the proceedings were more decorous than in former years; yet the members threw paper wads, files, and pamphlets at each other's heads, and "mock bills and resolutions, full of poor wit, were adopted." One of the resolutions that caused most merriment provided that "members of the House set 'em up" at a popular lager beer saloon after adjournment.

It is not Connecticut alone whose Legislature has been guilty of such silly behavior. Similar exhibitions have often occurred in other capitals, and even at Albany.

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

A Movement of Mr. Blaine's that Mr. Conkling is Said to have Checkmated.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The debate in the Senate to-day was stale and unprofitable. Mr. Dawes appealed to the Democratic side in a pathetic way to back down, and Mr. Saulsbury, in reply, made fun of him. Mr. Beck said that in December a conservative Republican, who had been a Union soldier, would be supported by the Democratic Senators for Sergeant-at-Arms in place of Riddleberger, the rebel repudiator, and the Republicans put to the test. Blair, Burnside, and Brown also spoke.

It is now known that Blaine some days ago made an ineffectual effort to break the deadlock long enough to secure action on some of the nominations. Mr. Frye had a long conference with Mahone, in which Frye suggested that Mahone would succeed far better in his Virginia canvass if he kept the promise of patronage dangling before the faces of the many applicants than he could after the patronage had been distributed. Naturally there would be in the latter event some disappointments which it would be desirable to avoid just now, therefore he suggested to Mahone that it would be well to allow the Senate to go into executive session so that the Democrats would have no reason to object to the change of officers after all the executive business was done. Mahone was brought, in Frye's opinion, to take the view that the coming election in Virginia would be more likely to be carried by the Mahone party if the Senate were permitted now to go into executive session. Mr. Frye, at all events, left Mr. Mahone with the impression that Mahone would vote to go into executive session. Next Mr. Hale called upon Mahone and made similar suggestions, and Mr. Hale went away confident that Mahone was willing to cast his vote for an executive session. With this as a basis, Frye and Hale talked with many of the Republican Senators, and found fully one-half of them ready to vote for an executive session to act upon pending nominations, but these thought it necessary to hold a caucus in order to formally come to some agreement.

Conkling and Don Cameron got wind of what was going on, and saw at once the skilful hand of Blaine in it. It did not take Conkling long to bring Mahone to see the error of his views.

A caucus was held and Mr. Frye announced that Mahone was ready to vote to go into executive session. Thereupon Mr. Conkling arose and expressed astonishment at the assertion, for he said that he had every reason for believing that Mr. Frye was in error in what he said. When the vote was taken there were just four Republican votes recorded in favor of breaking the deadlock. Now Mr. Hale has gone away and Mr. Frye is going.

Facts About the Cuban Frauds.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Herald*, published the other day a telegram from Paris averring that eighteen officials accused of frauds in navy purchases in Cuba had been tried by court martial and sentenced to penal servitude.

The facts, as we learn from Cuba, are that five persons have been sentenced, the most important of them being the Marques of Faura, a civil officer in charge of naval accounts in Havana, with a chief assistant and three clerks of the same bureau. But all the contractors who were accused in connection with the same frauds, including a brother-in-law of the late Mr. Zulueta, the Spanish millionaire of Havana, and a son-in-law of the same deceased capitalist, have been acquitted and released.

The important men have been let go; the comparatively unimportant ones are convicted. But the exaggeration of their sentence—eighteen years' penal servitude—leaves no doubt that they will all be set free at an early day. In fact, some of the discharged contractors have already gone to Madrid, apparently for the purpose of arranging the affair in a satisfactory manner.

A similar occurrence took place during the late civil war in Cuba when Valmaseda was Captain-General. Two wealthy contractors named Barrahona and Domenech were charged with frauds in naval supplies, amounting to four millions of dollars. They were subjected to some unpleasant formalities, but soon made their way to Madrid, and in due time were exonerated. One of them, Barrahona, died in Marseilles. His partner is still living. Nobody has ever been punished, and not a cent of the four millions has found its way back into the treasury.

The Missing Superannuated Preacher.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A slanderous report against my character as a superannuated Methodist minister is said to have been made by the Rev. C. H. Reynolds in the New York Conference, in these words: "He hasn't been known to attend church in three years." Another brother said: "The Lord knows where Brother Fuller is; we do not." In reply to these statements I would say that I heard the Rev. C. H. Reynolds preach his first sermon at Golden's Bridge, and have been with him in extra meetings on his charge, and have attended appointments on the Sabbath for him when he was sick and absent, as I have for all others when called on to do so and able to go; and this without compensation, except in a limited number of cases, and a yearly dividend from Conference, in amount this year $4.08.

I have offered my services to elders and bishops for years past, "if needed," as I lay by for the health and circumstances of my family, and regretted it; but no attention was ever paid, so far as I know, to my offer of my service. I have now a painful affliction, which sometimes forbids my staying in church, and had twice to leave the last time I preached for the Rev. C. H. Reynolds. The only reason that I know for this attack may be in my attending a funeral in his charge during the year past and in his presence.

I live about three miles from four Methodist churches—Herman, Golden's Bridge, North Salem, and Purdy Station—and am trying to earn my bread by hard labor, oppressed by misfortune and repeated losses.

GOLDEN'S BRIDGE, April 15. C. FULLER.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM MR. BLISS.

Addressed to Mr. Jackson S. Schultz, and Treating of Street Cleaning.

My dear Mr. Schultz:

"For what am I fighting?"

Don't you think the time has come when you may profitably sit down and ask yourself this question? As one who has had your confidence I ask this.

Primarily you want to pass the bill which gives Mayor Grace the charge of cleaning the streets. But that is only a step to the end. What you really want is that a suitable man should be appointed to have the immediate charge of street cleaning, and that when appointed he should do his work and be independent of politics or politicians.

Now, is not the way clearly and indisputably open to this end? Mayor Grace has announced that he proposes to appoint Commander Gorringe Superintendent of Street Cleaning. Presumptively he is a fit man. Your advocacy of the bill giving the power to Mayor Grace after his announcement of his intention to appoint Lieut. Gorringe necessarily commits you to him.

What, then, stands in the way of Gorringe's appointment? Under the Assembly bill it would need the approval of three of the four members of the Board of Health. One of those four, Mr. French, stands publicly pledged over his own signature to vote instantly for Gorringe's confirmation. Even your recent association will hardly lead you to doubt that Mr. French is a man of his word; as true to it as yourself. If you do doubt it, ask his lifelong friends, Chief Justice Daly and Benjamin B. Sherman.

You need two more votes. Do you doubt that Prof. Chandler and Dr. Janeway will vote without hesitation to confirm Commander Gorringe, or any competent man? Are they not quite as much entitled to your confidence as Mayor Grace? If, however, you do doubt it, as I know you do not, I am sure you could easily satisfy yourself upon that point. If this is so, you have, under the Assembly bill, Commander Gorringe duly installed in office by Mayor Grace and the Board of Health.

What more do you want to get to the great end desired, namely, clean streets? The powers under both the Senate and the Assembly bill are ample for any one of even moderate ability to clean the streets if he have the will. You doubt neither Gorringe's ability nor will, for if you did you would not favor him. What then, I repeat, do you want further? Do you say that you want that Gorringe, when once in office, should hold it only at the will of the Mayor, with no power to appoint a man or buy a broom except with the Mayor's consent, and with the exposure to instant removal at any time without cause or reason? This is what the Senate bill provides. Do you really think such a provision will permanently secure clean streets, and a divorce from politics? For one, I doubt if Commander Gorringe will consent to take office under such a bill. But assuming that he does, is it clear that under it he will be allowed permanently to do his duty? Do you really think you are as likely to have the work as satisfactorily done with Gorringe in office under a bill like the Senate bill as you would be with Gorringe in office under such a bill as the Assembly bill, which makes him independent of every one, except that he is liable to removal on the complaint of either the Mayor or the Board of Health? If you really think this, are you so sure that you are right that you are content on this single point to risk a permanent disagreement between the Senate and Assembly, and so leave the street cleaning in the Board of Police, where it never ought to have been put, and where it ought not to remain?

But perhaps you will say that while you recognize possible objections to giving the Mayor an absolute, unquestioned power of removal, you still think it essential that a Superintendent who fails to keep the streets clean should be removable without the necessity of formal charges or a trial. If this is your remaining objection, could it not be met by a provision that whenever either the Mayor or the Board of Health shall certify to the Governor that in his or their opinion the interests of the city require that the Superintendent should be removed, he may be so removed without charges or trial?

I make these suggestions to you because it seems to me that, practically, there is nothing in the way of an adjustment but a pride of opinion, which in the desire to succeed and to justify itself loses sight of the end to be sought. Unless I am greatly misinformed, the Senate bill cannot become a law. The Assembly bill, with the modifications I have suggested, seems to accomplish all that is claimed to be sought and all that ought to be obtained.

In what respect does it fail to guarantee clean streets, proper responsibility, and an entire divorce from politics?

Personally, what I want is clean streets, and the certainty that the power a million dollars a year gives should not be used against the Republican party. I care not to have it used for it. I have a right to say this to you, for in your presence before the Assembly committee when I first objected to the Senate bill, I suggested a street cleaning commission of two Democrats and one Republican, the Mayor, Comptroller, and President of the Board of Health. It has suited the filth throwers on the platform and in the press to ignore this, and to assert that I and others who act with me were fighting for patronage. There was a time when you at least would not have silently listened to such injustice, much less have joined in it. Yours truly,

GEORGE BLISS.

JACKSON S. SCHULTZ, Esq.

How the Hon. Jacob Hess is Appreciated by the Colored Citizens of Arkansas.

From the Hot Springs Evening Star.

Whereas, We, the unadulterated coons of Hot Springs, Arkansas, who have had the pleasure of meeting, and the distinguished honor of knowing the Hon. Jacob Hess of New York city, and

Whereas, We desire to convey to him in language, feeble, but heartfelt, the great regard and high esteem we have for him: therefore, be it

Resolved, Firstly, that in our opinion the city of New York is to be congratulated upon having for one of its citizens the Hon. Jacob Hess. That most ancient of all history tells us that one just and good man saved a city, therefore there must be some hope for that modern Sodom and Gomorrah.

Resolved, Secondly, that the Hon. Jacob Hess, by his courteous manners, manly bearing, and liberal conduct, has endeared himself, his future, and his memory to us all.

Resolved, Thirdly, that we learn with unfeigned regret of the departure of the Hon. Jacob Hess to his northern home; and earnestly hope that not many moons will pass ere he will gladden us with his presence again.

Resolved, For the last time, that we extend to the Hon. Jacob Hess the freedom of the city of Hot Springs and a copy of these resolutions; also, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the editor of THE SUN, which shines for all, and to the editor of the *Evening Star* of Hot Springs, which twinkles for many, with a request that the same be published.

AARON JOHNSON,	IKE GREY,
ANDREW GREEN (No relation to Andrew H.),	ALABAMA TOM,
MISSISSIPPI MOSES,	TEXAS JOHNSON,
S. C. STEELE,	ED. MCCULLEN,
SAUNEY GLOVER ("Rat Monopolist"),	GRASSHOPPER TOM,
ALLEN ROAN ("Ex-Notary Public"),	HENRY BATTLE,
	JUDGE VINEGAR,
	GAS PIPE GEORGE,
	NAP. BONAPARTE ROWELL.

Too Costly.

From the Philadelphia Times.

A Western heiress a year or two ago bought a husband bearing one of the most ancient titles in the Italian aristocracy. The usual marriage settlement gave the lord command of a large income in his own right, besides which the Italian law makes the husband master of the wife's property. The hard-headed father objected to the cold-blooded bargain-and-sale style, but the daughter insisted. The terms were finally drawn up. To the husband, $100,000 down to put his estates in order, $20,000 per annum as an allowance; $20,000 for each child born, the father to be sole trustee of the money. In less than a year the pair were embroiled. The wife was beaten by her lord, and finally put in a convent under plea that she was mad. For a time the father was in ignorance of the real state of affairs, as no letters could pass from the incarcerated woman that were not first submitted to the husband. The case was brought before the American Consul, and the father has begun proceedings to rescue his daughter.

How Sluice Mining Originated.

From the Nevada Transcript.

Col. Eddy of this city claims the credit of having originally introduced the sluice box for mining purposes, the invention owing its origin to an accidental discovery. He gives the following account of his connection with this important discovery: In the spring of 1850, when all operations were being carried on by the aid of the long tom and the rocker, he located a claim in the ravine just above the Catholic church in this city. There were several claims below him, the holders of which refused to permit him to run tailings on their ground. So he made a trough leading from his location through theirs and to a point below. On the bottom of the sluice, wherever the different sections joined, he nailed wooden cleats to keep the water and gravel from leaking through. At the lower end of the sluice he placed a rocker, and for one day manipulated the dirt that came down to it. At the end of that day he found that the rocker had saved scarcely any gold. Going along up the sluice, he found behind each of the cleats numerous sparkling particles of gold that had lodged there. He abandoned the use of the rocker, increased the number of cleats, and then commenced what he said was the first sluice mining ever carried on in California and probably in the world, so far as he knows. The sluice and riffles soon became popular, causing the price of lumber to advance rapidly. The Colonel says the only thing he regrets about his discovery is that he did not have it patented, and thus win fame and fortune.

Servant Girls in Winnipeg.

From the Winnipeg Times.

The great servant-girl question agitates the households of Winnipeg. Though the girls often insist on dining with you, being your companion in the sitting room, receiving her beaux there, and playing an hour or two every day on your piano, she seldom renders efficient service. Among a number of answers to a recent advertisement for a servant was one from a young lady who said she understood general housework pretty well, except to iron and starch clothes. "I get," she adds, "the best wages going, and stay a long time in a place; if you want me to go, please state the wages and how many of a family you have, and if you let your hired girl eat with the family. Let me know the full particulars."

A JUDGE IN A BAD PLIGHT.

Demanding Back from Judge Gildersleeve $100 Paid to his Needy Brother.

The summons and a copy of the complaint in a civil suit instituted by Andrew Wheeler Vandewater, recently an attendant in the Court of General Sessions, against Judge Henry A. Gildersleeve of that court, were served yesterday. The papers were prepared in the office of ex-Senator Thomas C. E. Ecclesine. The clerk, who was instructed to serve them found Judge Gildersleeve upon the bench of Part II. of the General Sessions, and waited until the Judge retired to his chambers at recess.

The suit is for the recovery of $100, which Vandewater alleges he paid to Judge Gildersleeve's brother, Elmer D. Gildersleeve, a clerk in a shoe store in Poughkeepsie, in pursuance of an arrangement made with Judge Gildersleeve before Vandewater's appointment as an attendant in the court. The money was paid at the rate of $20 per month, it is alleged, during the first five months of Vandewater's service. Then, at the instance of his wife, Judge Gildersleeve's niece, Vandewater says he refused to send any more money to Elmer D. Gildersleeve, and he was subsequently removed by Judge Gildersleeve.

Elmer D. Gildersleeve is joined with Judge Gildersleeve as a defendant in the suit.

Judge Gildersleeve showed the reporter, in his chambers, the papers that had been served upon him.

GEN. BUTLER HOME AGAIN.

What he Saw of Cuba, Florida, and Alligators, and What he Thinks of Politics.

Gen. Benj. F. Butler has just returned from a trip to the West Indies in his yacht, the America. He appears to be in excellent health, says he feels first rate, and is ready for any amount of work. He says that he was not troubled by seasickness, although they encountered very rough weather. Had not the America been a stanch boat and the crew first-rate sailors they would not have survived some of the storms in which they were caught.

"I can't tell you anything about my trip," he said to a SUN reporter in the Fifth Avenue Hotel yesterday, "because Mr. C. A. D. has in his 'Cuban Notes' anticipated anything I might say. I left Fortress Monroe March 3, and I have stayed some time at Havana, Nassau, and Fernandina. My observations agree with his, except that I think I would have put it somewhat stronger in regard to the decadence of sugar planting. They have an army of some 20,000 odd men there to be supported by Cuba, and they have enormous taxation to meet. They import all their beef from South America, and all they have to depend upon to pay their way is their tobacco and sugar, and they can't carry the burden. I agree with C. A. D. that there is no likelihood of another war of independence for a long time to come. They are thoroughly whipped out.

"I did not come straight North from Cuba, but ran over to Florida. We went up some of the Florida rivers, and had sport shooting alligators. My son shot seven or eight of them. We caught three of them that were about eight feet long, and brought the skin of one back with us. It's not such an easy thing to get an alligator. If you kill one he's likely to sink, and if he's only wounded he'll hide. And, by the way, we did not find the alligator's scales such a tough, resisting substance as we had heard. Not only will a rifle bullet penetrate an alligator's back easily, but we found that a load of buckshot went in pretty effectually. One of our party put a rifle bullet in the head of one about two inches back of the eye, and it went clean through."

To interrogatories as to his views on politics, the General said that he had no views to give. He had been off having a good time and had not been reading the papers. "I don't see why," he said, "the Administration should wish to attack Mr. Conkling, nor why there should be any quarrel at all. But I don't know enough about the pending deadlock and affairs since Gen. Garfield went in to express an opinion on the subject."

About politics in general, Mr. Butler said:

"After all, the only real issues are the struggle with the powers of corporations and the financial question. The control which rich corporations are obtaining must be resisted, and so also the attempts of the banks to get rid of the greenback national currency. I have no fear of any panic resulting from any financial arrangements at present. In fact, panics do not come from movements of currency, but from over investments and reckless trading. The amount of currency in circulation bears a very small proportion to the volume of trade.

"As to the drift of party politics, I can say nothing because I know nothing. One side say they are for a free ballot, a full vote, and an honest count. The other side say they are for the same thing, so that there is no issue in that. Up in Massachusetts they say they want that in the South. Well, I happen to know that there has not been a free ballot in Massachusetts. And then I hear a great deal about tissue ballots in the South. Well, that is denied, but I suspect there must be some truth in it. For my own part, I think that the American citizen ought to be protected by his Government in the exercise of the most valuable of all rights. If the State power doesn't do it, the Federal power ought to. But, as I said before, the real issues are the rule of the great corporations and the financial question."

The Medical Society on Vivisection.

A committee of the Medical Society of the State of New York have addressed to the officers and members of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals the following letter:

DEAR SIR: The medical profession of the State of New York believe it to be most important for the health and well being of the community that the most accurate possible knowledge should be acquired of the laws of health and disease. The occasional prevalence of disease among the lower animals, to such an extent as to destroy a large amount of property and to interfere with our commerce, also calls for investigation.

So weighty are these interests that the Medical Society of the State of New York has appointed the undersigned a special committee on the subject of experimental medicine, charged with the duty of protecting such investigations from harmful interference.

Such an interference is threatened by the efforts which have been made, in the name and with the implied sanction of your society, to prevent, by legal enactment, experiments on animals for medical and scientific purposes. Should these efforts succeed, they would have the effect to prohibit, within this State, a most useful means of investigation, and would be a lasting detriment to the cultivation and improvement of medicine. The committee can say, from their own knowledge, that the experiments in question are not performed in a spirit of wanton cruelty, nor in such a way as to inflict needless suffering upon the animals employed; and that the information acquired by their means is often of the highest value for the protection of life and property.

With you, we earnestly desire to prevent every form of unnecessary suffering. But we would most strongly draw your attention to the radical difference between the infliction of wanton cruelty, and the serious and careful use of the lower animals for the benefit of humanity and of the brute creation; and we respectfully ask that the name and authority of your society may not be employed to the injury of the medical profession and of medical science.

JAS. R. WOOD, M. D., WILLARD PARKER, M. D., New York; JOSEPH C. HUTCHISON, M. D., Brooklyn; S. O. VANDER POEL, M. D., Albany; EDWARD M. MOORE, M. D., Rochester; JAS. P. WHITE, M. D., Buffalo; GEORGE JACKSON FISHER, M. D., Sing Sing; HENRY D. DIDAMA, M. D., Syracuse; T. H. SQUIRE, M. D., Elmira.

Sermons by Telephone.

From the Chicago Times.

CARROLLTON, Ill., April 11.—The President of the Carrollton Telephone Exchange of this city ran a line in the Presbyterian church, connecting it with a Blake transmitter placed at the right of the speaker in the pulpit, and yesterday morning the citizens at a dozen residences and business places, some of them a half mile distant, listened to the sermons by the pastor. Every word of the two discourses was heard as distinctly as though the listeners were in the church. The music was particularly clear and distinct, the voices of the different choristers being readily distinguished.

Yankee Railroads in Mexico.

From the Rochester Union.

American firms are now engaged in building various lines of railway in Mexico, among them the Mexican National Railroad, the main line of which will extend from the city of Mexico to Laredo on the Texas boundary. There will also be a branch from Manzanillo to the capital. Twenty-five parties of American engineers are employed on these works, and two hundred locomotives have been ordered, some of which have arrived in Mexico. The Governor of Chihuahua has stationed 300 troops at El Paso with the view of keeping order, as the army of railroad builders advance.

Obituary Remarks, with Comments.

Exact in all the relations of life was he—
His hat and boots were just what they ought to be.

He never was known to neglect the means of grace—
He paid for his pew, and always sat in his place.

Among the safest and best of our business men—
Whatever he bought for five cents he sold for ten.

His thoughts and hopes were not for a day [illegible]—
No man knew better the use and worth of a dime.

His intellect easily showed the breadth of its range—
He never once was deceived in making change.

A bright example he set before every one—
Who knows of any good deed he has ever done?

His days flowed smoothly and evenly [illegible]—
He never succeeded in making a single friend.

Our friend by his wife and children was [illegible]
By silks, and sealskins, and cash so [illegible]

His life was blameless and pure, without a [illegible]—
Whatever he cheated, he kept within the law.

He left this world, which could ill afford the [illegible]
They who best knew him most [illegible]

His place in the Better Land is beyond our ken—
There none can buy for five cents and sell for ten.